

1. Offer some general remarks on God's visitation of sinful nations, and the manner in which he visits them.

2. I shall notice several traits in our national character which go to show, that we are such a nation as has just reason to dread the righteous visitations of heaven.

1st. I am to make some general remarks on God's visitation of sinful nations, and the manner in which he visits them.

When mention is made in the sacred oracles, of God's visiting either an individual or a nation, the term is not always to be understood in the same sense. The term to visit is indiscriminately applied to acts of judgment and of mercy. In many instances it means the same as the performance of a mercy promised, but in others it means the infliction of a previously threatened judgment. The places of scripture in which the term is used in both these senses are too numerous to particularize. A few however may be briefly noticed.—*God will surely visit you ;* (i. e. in order to perform the mercy promised to your Fathers, in delivering you out of this land) *and ye shall carry up my bones from hence,* says dying Joseph to his surrounding brethren. *What is man that thou shouldst visit him every morning ?* says Job. *O God of hosts look down from Heaven, and visit this vine and the vineyard which thine own right hand hath planted. — O visit me with thy salvation.*—Psalmist. The coming of Christ is also called a visitation and redemption of God's people. *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he hath visited and redeemed his people.*—Luke 1, lxviii. *The day spring from on high hath visited us.*—Ver. vxxviii. But in many places God's visiting a people is the same with his inflicting a threatened punishment. *I the Lord am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the Fathers upon the Children,* says Jehovah himself. And again. *In the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them.* He visits his people's iniquities with a rod, and their transgressions with stripes. All afflictive dispensations of providence, whether more or less severe, may be considered as God's visitations. It plainly appears, from its connection with vengeance, that this is the sense of visiting in the text. It was a correction, and one of the severest kind, which was threatened.

The ways in which God visits offending nations, either for

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